

REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-23 are now pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 15-23 have been added. Applicants believe that no new matter has been introduced by this Preliminary Amendment. Entry of this Amendment before examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) were submitted on October 4, 2004.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-5088.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-5088.

Respectfully submitted,
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